



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Press Release

CONTACT

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OES Dispatches Additional Safety Inspectors to San Luis Obispo County

SACRAMENTO – Governor's Office of Emergency Services, today, is dispatching additional safety inspectors from throughout the state to help ensure the safety of occupied buildings and quicken the ongoing effort to return people to their evacuated homes and businesses following Monday's 6.5 San Simeon Earthquake.

"We want to return people to their evacuated homes and businesses as quickly as possible, but only if it is safe to do so," said Director Dallas Jones. "We are providing the cities with additional inspectors so that the job can be completed that much faster."

Atascadero has requested nine safety inspectors to arrive Friday morning. Paso Robles has requested 14 inspectors to augment their inspection staff. Ten of them are beginning inspections in Paso Robles today. The inspectors are public and private structural engineers, civil engineers and building inspectors from Fresno, Humboldt, Monterey, Santa Barbara and other counties as they are identified.

The 63 out-of-county firefighters that OES dispatched to the scene to assist in the response immediately after the earthquake are also assisting in the inspections. The 15 OES engines are equipped for light Urban Search & Rescue operations.

Upon arrival, inspectors join the city building official and staff who are already conducting inspections. In Paso Robles, they are concentrating on 81 buildings that have been evacuated in the six-block downtown area, with plans to branch out to the rest of the city, which includes approximately 1,000 homes that have been identified for inspection so far.

The safety inspectors are trained and certified by OES' Safety Assessment Program to perform facility evaluations following a disaster. There are more than 2,000 evaluators in California.

Anyone in Paso Robles or other parts of San Luis Obispo County with concerns about the condition of their buildings following the 6.5 magnitude earthquake or any of the aftershocks are encouraged to contact their local building official. Upon inspection, a sign is posted to indicate the level of safety. A green sign means it is safe to occupy, a yellow sign means there are some restrictions and a red sign means it is not safe to occupy.

For additional information about the earthquake or aftershocks visit www.oes.ca.gov.